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Iowa Power Fund Board Finalizes 6 Contracts

(Des Moines, IA) – Today the Iowa Power Fund Board approved funding for six contracts totaling $5.87 million. These projects will leverage $6.27 million in private sector investments to the state. The projects are summarized below.

Clean Gasification Platform for Renewable Power– Iowa State University was awarded $2.37 million to improve the performance of ethanol plants, utilizing clean biomass gasification for power generation and ethanol production. The project also addresses the core development needs of the grain ethanol industry to reduce natural gas consumption and transition to cellulosic ethanol production. Matching funds: $922,112

Mobile Solid Biomass Briquette Plant – RENEW Energy Systems was awarded $250,000 to build a mobile biomass briquetter, which will be used to densify solid biomass onsite for industrial and commercial heat and power generation. By briquetting biomass on-site, this project will reduce the transportation and carbon cost of feedstock transfer. Matching funds: $299,500

Development of Less Expensive Dye Sensitized Solar Cells – University of Northern Iowa was awarded $78, 681 to develop dye sensitized solar cells. Technology developments in this area of research will allow for more commercially-viable, solar-powered consumer devices. Matching funds: $18,600

Efficient, low cost, photovoltaic solar energy conversion – Iowa State University was awarded $1.69 million to develop more efficient, cost-effective thin film solar cells for solar-electric energy conversion by improving materials and by using novel device structures. Matching funds: $463,500

Novel Hydrogen Storage Materials for Fuel Cell Application – University of Northern Iowa was awarded $400,000 to create an economically competitive hydrogen fuel cell that would revolutionize the energy storage industry. Development of a high density storage matrix for hydrogen is the critical step to making fuel cells competitive on the commercial market. Matching funds: $65,000

Amana Renewable Energy Project – Amana Farms, Inc. was awarded $1.08 million to utilize emerging technologies to create environmental benefits by turning crop, livestock and industrial waste into renewable energy through anaerobic digestion. Amana Farms will build an educational facility, which will be used to host seminars and explain this under-utilized technology to members of the general public. Matching funds: $3.57 million

*The **Office of Energy Independence** (OEI) sets the strategic direction for Iowa's clean energy future by identifying goals to achieve desired results. The office will align state government efforts for achieving energy independence through partnerships with business and industry, community leaders, government and public agencies, and other stakeholders.*

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